

OTHER EPA PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION

Other EPA programs that are most likely to impact Superfund site activities are RCRA, Air, Water, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances. Each of these programs pursues its own mission under separate statutes, and any or all of them may be at work in the area affected by your site. Consulting the other programs when planning Superfund site actions helps avoid potential conflicts with the jurisdictions and regulations of these other programs.

For example, one CIC discovered that five of her sites, all in close proximity, had groundwater problems impacting the same aquifer. By discussing her finding with the RPM and involving EPA's Water program staff in the decisions regarding the remedies for this aquifer, several problems were avoided. At a site where the groundwater was the primary source of drinking water for local population, the RPM called the Water program and discovered that the Water program was working with the community on a well-head protection program that had implications on the remedy selection for the Superfund site. At another site, the Air program issued a decision on a facility adjacent to but unrelated to the Superfund site. That decision had a major impact on the remedy proposed for the Superfund site and resulted in numerous calls to the CIC from local residents.

Typically, the community involvement requirements of other EPA programs are not as extensive as those under the Superfund program. Consequently, the CIC may be called upon to be the public's point-of-contact for all EPA programs related to a site and provide multi-program community involvement support as EPA moves further into multimedia site management.

USING THE RESOURCE

WHEN TO USE

Superfund site staff should consult with other program offices on nearly every site, and always when there is a situation that could potentially involve other EPA programs. For instance, RCRA program staff should be consulted for sites that are former RCRA facilities and sites that are adjacent to a RCRA permitted facility. If the contaminated waste is to be incinerated on site, or if Superfund waste is to be transported and incinerated off site, Superfund staff must consult with RCRA as well as Air program staff.

EPA staff in other program offices can help CICs gather information for the public. For example, outreach staff in EPA's Office of Air and Radiation can help CICs contact experts on radiation, radon, and air contamination. Pesticide program staff will be able to give CICs up-to-date information on the health and environmental effects of any pesticide, herbicide, rodenticide, or insecticide. The Water program can provide health and other information on water contaminants and standards.

HOW TO USE

One of the best protections against conflicts with other EPA programs is to conduct a regional assessment that identifies all federal and state projects in a region, the nature of those projects, and their impacts. Knowing as much as possible about the area near your site can help identify potential conflicts with other programs before they arise.

TIPS

- Learn about the region and other sites in the area; and
- Learn about the scope and responsibilities of the other program offices.

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OTHER EPA PROGRAMS

Office of Air AND Radiation

Description

EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) addresses issues that affect the quality of the nation's air. OAR develops national programs, technical policies, and regulations for air pollution control. Areas of concern to OAR include indoor and outdoor air quality, stationary and mobile sources of air pollution, radon, acid rain, stratospheric ozone depletion, and pollution prevention.

OAR is comprised of six offices. The Office of Policy Analysis and Review and the Office of Program Management Operations are responsible for policy development and office management. The remaining four offices, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Office of Atmospheric Programs, Office of Mobile Sources, and Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, are responsible for program implementation.

The 1990 Clean Air Act gave EPA authority to list and regulate 189 hazardous air pollutants based on their potential health or environmental hazard. Many of these contaminants, such as volatile organic compounds and lead, are commonly found at Superfund sites.

Using the Resource

Activities at Superfund sites could release materials into the air that are monitored and regulated by OAR. In fact, waste treatment and disposal, hazardous waste incineration, and site remediation are identified as sources of hazardous air toxics that can create air quality problems. Cleanups of radiation contamination, conducted by OAR, are similar to Superfund remediation actions and involve similar community concerns. Instances in which OAR and Superfund may benefit from coordinating community involvement services are:

- Cleanup of radiation at a mixed waste facility, private site, Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulated power plant, or a site overseen by the *Department of Defense, Department of Energy, or Department of the Interior*;
- A Superfund site, such as a co-disposal site, that requires air monitoring during remediation;
- Cleanup at a uranium mill tailings pile site; and
- A situation involving radionuclides where OAR is providing oversight.

The Education and Outreach Group (EOG) in the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards was created in 1994 to provide technical air pollution training, promote environmental education, and develop outreach activities to communicate with a variety of air quality specialists and the public on the Federal Clean Air Act program. The activities EOG usually conduct include:

- Issuing announcements and publications for both general and scientific audiences on air quality;
- Maintaining a Web page on the *Internet* with links to other resources for use by the general public and air specialists;
- Creating brochures, *Fact Sheets* and *Videos* on air quality issues;
- Responding to requests for information; and
- Training for state and local air agency professionals and teachers via self-instruction, satellite broadcasts, or classroom.



[See Federal Agencies, Tab 16](#)



[See Internet, Tab 10; Fact Sheets, Tab 15; Videos, Tab 45](#)

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Office of Air AND Radiation

Why coordinate with OAR? Since OAR and Superfund cleanup activities share similar community issues and concerns, CICs and OAR can benefit from sharing techniques and strategies for communicating with the public. Also, OAR outreach personnel in the EOG have connections to specialists in air and radiation issues that can help explain technical concepts. The CIC also can open lines of communication between OAR and Superfund when issues arise over differences in standards, methods, and regulations regarding air and radiation.

Tips

- Tap OAR technical experts and OAR outreach personnel to gather information related to air and radiation and to share ideas and **Strategies** that broaden your knowledge of alternatives and options for communication with the public;
- Air contamination can put people at **Risk** over a wide geographic area, so communication strategies may have to be adjusted to account for the larger impacted area;
- Collaborate with OAR in a Joint Information Center during a large response action; and
- Consider using an OAR expert on air or radiation contamination to help lead a discussion and answer questions at **Public Meetings**.

RELATED TOOLS/RESOURCES IN THE TOOLKIT

- [Communication Strategies, Tab 3](#)
- [Fact Sheets, Tab 15](#)
- [Internet, Tab 10](#)
- [Federal Agencies, Tab 16](#)
- [Public Meetings, Tab 32](#)
- [Risk Communication, Tab 37](#)
- [Toxic Substances Control Act, Tab 27](#)
- [Videos, Tabs 45](#)

Outside Sources of Information

- Office of Air and Radiation Home Page at www.epa.gov/oar/. This home page links to numerous resources of use to the general public, including a section on Tools and Technical Information at www.epa.gov/air/toolstech.html, which further links to a list of publications, a web-based “plain English” guide to the Clean Air Act, air data and maps, and information on policy and regulations.

[See
Communication Strategy,
Tab 3](#)



[See Risk
Communication, Tab 37](#)



[See Public
Meetings,
Tab 32](#)



Office of Pesticide Programs

Description

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is responsible for safeguarding the health of the American public and the environment from potential risks of pesticides, and for promoting safer means of pest control. OPP must ensure that pesticides are regulated fairly while simultaneously helping to ensure that effective measures for controlling pests are available.

Pesticides differ from other classes of chemicals that EPA regulates. They are applied intentionally in the environment; are used in a diverse array of household, agricultural, and industrial products; and are found in nearly every home and business in the United States. Although improper use can pose health risks, pesticides provide pest control benefits that improve public health and aid in production of the food supply. EPA has developed an array of programs to evaluate and reduce pesticide risks and promote safe pesticide use. States and tribes as well as many public and private organizations are vital partners in this effort.

Using the Resource

When to Use

Because of the **Risks**, pesticides at some Superfund sites require cleanup. Instances in which OPP may need your community involvement assistance are when pesticides spill during production or transport, are stored improperly, or are misused and require cleanup by trained professionals.

OPP and the Regions widely distribute information to public audiences and the regulated community, but OPP has no national requirement concerning community involvement. As a result, the Regions usually develop their own **Communication Strategies** for addressing public concerns about pesticide contaminated sites. OPP and the Regions:

- Issue announcements and publications for both general and scientific audiences;
- Provide information by **Telephone** and electronic network;
- Maintain **Internet** Web pages with information and links to other resources for the public;
- Respond to written requests for information;
- Maintain a public docket for walk-in visitors;
- Hold **Public Meetings**; and
- Present speeches and Congressional testimony.

It is a good idea to coordinate with OPP, because OPP personnel can focus on the long-term implications of illegal pesticide use and teach affected citizens how to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

Tips

- Pesticide contamination may encompass more than one site and several communities.
- Residential relocation is more likely than with most chemicals due to pesticide misuse in the home.



[See Risk Communication, Tab 37](#)



[See Communication Strategy, Tab 3; Telephone, Tab 42; Internet, Tab 10; Public Meetings, Tab 32](#)

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Office of Pesticide Programs

RELATED TOOLS/RESOURCES IN THE TOOLKIT

- [Communications Strategies, Tab 3](#)
- [Federal Agencies, Tab 16](#)
- [Internet, Tab 10](#)
- [Public Meetings, Tab 32](#)
- [Residential Relocations, Tab 34](#)
- [Risk Communication, Tab 37](#)
- [Telephone, Tab 42](#)

OUTSIDE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The OPP publication “Citizen’s Guide to Pest Control and Pesticide Safety,” is available online at www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/Cit_Guide/citguide.pdf. Other publications and fact sheets can be found at www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/catalog/.
- OPP has an “Information Sources” **Internet** page: www.epa.gov/pesticides/about/info.htm with links to other pesticide related Web pages. The following resources can be accessed through this page:
 - A list of libraries in the [EPA National Library Network](#) that specialize in Pesticide information.
 - The [National Pesticide Telecommunications Network \(NPTN\)](#) provides objective, science-based information about a variety of pesticide-related subjects, including pesticide products, recognition and management of pesticide poisonings, toxicology, and environmental chemistry. NPTN can be contacted at (800) 858-7378 or by E-mail at nptn@ace.orst.edu.
 - [In The News](#) focuses on pesticide issues in Press Releases, contains questions and answers on pesticide information, offers supporting documents for recent OPP decisions, and highlights new information products.
- Office of Pesticide Programs (703) 305-7090
 - Antimicrobial Division (703) 308-6411
 - Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division (703) 308-8712
 - Environmental Fate and Effects Division (703) 305-7695
 - Field and External Affairs Division (703) 305-7102
 - Health Effects Division (703) 305-7351
 - Information Resources and Services Division (703) 305-5440

Description

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) is an important environmental statute that drives some decisions at Superfund sites. The following description of the RCRA program is provided for CICs to inform community members involved in Superfund decision making on RCRA. Additional sources of information and contacts are provided for affected communities to conduct further research on the RCRA program.

In 1965, Congress enacted the Solid Waste Disposal Act, which provided the first federal statutory provisions designed to improve solid waste disposal practices. The Act was amended in 1970 by the Resource Recovery Act, and amended again in 1976 by RCRA. The RCRA amendments restructured nation's waste management practices by adding provisions for proper hazardous waste management. Congress continued to amend the statute after 1976. The most significant change to the RCRA statute occurred in 1984 with the passage of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA), which again expanded the scope and requirements of the law.

Congress intended that RCRA achieve three primary goals: (1) protection of human health and the environment; (2) reduction of waste and conservation of energy and natural resources; and (3) reduction or elimination of hazardous waste generation as expeditiously as possible. The Act is divided into 10 subtitles (A through J) that provide EPA with the framework and authority to achieve the RCRA goals. Subtitles C, D, I, and J establish the framework for four environmental programs: hazardous waste management; solid waste management; underground storage tanks; and medical waste, respectively.

RCRA Subtitle C establishes a system for controlling hazardous waste from generation to final disposal. It is the subtitle most directly related to Superfund cleanups. Though RCRA does create a framework for the proper management of hazardous and nonhazardous solid waste, it does not address hazardous waste contamination resulting from spills or illegal dumping that require emergency or remedial response. These problems are addressed by the Superfund program. Superfund also reaches back in time to address problems encountered at inactive or abandoned sites that were contaminated prior to passage of RCRA.

RCRA authorizes limited cleanup authority under the RCRA corrective action program. RCRA corrective action is typically conducted when a site's problems are not complex and the responsible party is willing and financially solvent. EPA has maintained a policy of undertaking Superfund cleanups at sites that cannot or will not be adequately addressed by another remediation authority, mainly RCRA.

Using the Resource

When to Use

All materials classified as hazardous waste by RCRA are also designated as Superfund hazardous substances and as such must be handled in accordance with both Superfund and RCRA regulations. The transport and handling of RCRA hazardous waste from Superfund sites is covered by RCRA authority. Therefore, any remedy that includes off-site treatment will involve RCRA regulations governing the transport to and treatment of waste at an approved facility. Because the regulations under RCRA are complex, EPA has issued numerous guidance documents intended to facilitate the interaction between CERCLA and RCRA. A few are listed below.

Outside Sources of Information

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Hotline

Established to respond to inquiries from affected communities and public concerning RCRA waste management and disposal regulations.

RCRA Hotline (800) 424-9346

RCRA Hotline (703) 412-9810 (Washington, DC, Metropolitan calling area)

RCRA Docket Information Center

Provides copies of documents, regulations, and fact sheets relevant to the RCRA program:

U.S. EPA

RCRA Docket Information Center

Office of Solid Waste (RIC) (OS-305)

401 M Street SW

Room M-2427

Washington, DC 20460

RCRA Electronic Mailing List (Listserver)

EPA maintains several free electronic mailing lists, including distribution lists for copies of the *Federal Register*, press releases, and the RCRA Hotline Monthly Hotline Report questions and answers. Subscribers to these lists receive electronically mailed copies of the documents as they are published.

To subscribe to an electronic mailing list:

- Send E-mail requests to the following address: listserv@unixmail.rtpnc.epa.gov
- Label the subject line of the E-mail SUBSCRIBE TO LISTSERVERS. The text of the E-mail should read SUBSCRIBE <list name> <first name> <last name> (e.g., SUBSCRIBE EPA-WASTE JOHN SMITH).

Examples of current mailing lists relevant to RCRA information:

- EPA-PRESS: EPA press releases;
- EPA-TRI: Community Right-to-Know Toxic Release Inventory Federal Registers;
- EPA-WASTE: All Hazardous and Solid Waste Federal Registers;
- BROWNFIELDS: Conveys key information, events, and activities on brownfields;
- HOTLINE_OSWER: RCRA, Superfund and EPCRA Hotline Report and Updates; and

EPA Policy and Guidance on RCRA-CERCLA Coordination and Deferral

- 54 *Federal Register* 41000, esp. 41006-41009 (October 4, 1989), RCRA Deferral Policy;
- 54 *Federal Register* 10520 (March 13, 1989), National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites Listing Policy for Federal Facilities;
- 55 *Federal Register* 30798, esp. 30852-30853 (July 27, 1990), Proposed Rule for Corrective Action for Solid Waste Management Units at Hazardous Waste Management Facilities.

Description

Congress enacted TSCA in 1976 to test, regulate, and screen all chemicals produced or imported into the United States. Many thousands of chemicals and associated compounds are developed each year with unknown toxic or dangerous characteristics. Any chemical that poses health and environmental hazards is tracked and reported under TSCA.

Using the Resource

TSCA plays a role at Superfund sites. For instance, TSCA produces **Risk** information about chemicals that CICs can use and communicate to communities, and TSCA requires that workers at Superfund sites receive training and accreditation to properly handle and dispose of chemicals.


Existing and New Chemicals

TSCA gives EPA the authority and responsibility to protect human health and the environment from unreasonable **Risks** arising from the manufacture, distribution, use, or disposal of existing and new chemicals. For existing chemical substances, TSCA requires EPA to obtain information from chemical manufacturers and develop a list of chemical substances. EPA has compiled this information and created a list called the TSCA Inventory. Manufacturers and processors of certain chemicals listed on the TSCA Inventory are subject to detailed reporting requirements concerning the physical properties of the substance, its use, and worker exposure information. TSCA further authorizes EPA to screen chemical substances and limit or prohibit their manufacture and processing if they present an unreasonable **Risk** of injury. EPA also supports the abatement of asbestos in schools and is working to reduce dangers associated with lead-based paint.

For any new chemical substance, manufacturers and processors must submit a pre-manufacture notice (PMN) to EPA 90 days prior to manufacturing or processing the substance. The PMN contains detailed information concerning chemical properties, proposed use, and existing knowledge of the chemical's environmental and health effects. EPA uses this information to accept, limit, or prohibit the use of the substance. After the PMN review is completed, the substance is added to the TSCA Inventory and is subject to all TSCA rules. Since TSCA was enactment, EPA has screened more than 70,000 new toxic chemicals before they were introduced into commerce. Over 500 individual chemicals are subject to specific EPA administrative orders requiring workplace or manufacturing controls to protect human health and the environment. TSCA contains special provisions governing the labeling, inspection, storage, and disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a common chemical found at Superfund sites.

Enforcement

EPA has the authority to implement and enforce TSCA throughout the United States. This allows EPA to take legal action to seize any chemical substance manufactured, processed, or distributed in violation of TSCA. Civil or criminal penalties of up to \$25,000 for each day of violation, and imprisonment up to one year are possible. States are permitted to establish programs that complement, but not reduce, EPA's authority.

 [See Risk Communication, Tab 37](#)

Tips

- TSCA helps prevent the creation of new Superfund sites and ensures safe working conditions for environmental cleanup personnel at Superfund sites, which in turn helps to protect nearby communities;
- Legislation requires that those involved in pollution management and protection are accredited and properly trained; and
- When community members ask about how toxic chemicals are controlled, CICs may use TSCA information to explain EPA's programs to screen and track new and existing chemicals.

RELATED TOOLS/RESOURCES IN THE TOOLKIT

- [Risk Communication, Tab 37](#)

OUTSIDE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

For more information about TSCA and its related amendments, contact the TSCA Hotline at:

TSCA Assistance Information Service
EPA Mail Code 7408
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460
Telephone: (202) 554-1404
Fax: (202) 554-5603
TDD: (202) 554-0551
E-mail: tsc hotline@epamail.epa.gov

The TSCA Hotline is staffed from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday, except federal holidays. Staff can answer technical questions and provide printed information about activities related to TSCA. The documents, which are distributed free of charge, include *Federal Register* notices, reports, brochures, and booklets.

- To view TSCA full text, visit this Web site: www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/15/ch53.html

EPA's WATER PROGRAM

Description

The Office of Water (OW) is responsible for EPA's water quality activities. This includes the development and implementation of national programs, technical policies, and regulations for drinking water, water quality, groundwater, pollution source standards, and protection of wetlands, marine, and estuarine areas.

The Office of Water is responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), and portions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), and several other statutes.

The Office of Water operates from five headquarters offices and 10 regional offices. The headquarters offices are:

- Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) acts as the developer of national wetlands standards and policies. OWOW works with state, local, and other partners to ensure that national standards and programs are applied, nonpoint source pollution is abated, wetlands and coastal areas are restored and protected, and leadership in surface water monitoring and water quality assessment is provided.
- Office of Science and Technology (OST) is responsible for developing risk assessment methods and for providing risk assessment support for the Office of Water. It is also responsible for developing sound, scientifically defensible standards, criteria, advisories, guidelines, and limitations under the CWA and the SDWA.
- Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) is responsible for protecting the waters of the United States by ensuring that they are clean enough for designated human uses such as drinking, swimming, and boating, and are adequate habitats for fish, shellfish, and wildlife. OWM promotes compliance with the CWA through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program, provides oversight of the industrial pretreatment and storm water programs, manages the sludge (biosolids) permitting program, and administers the State Revolving Loan Funds and CWA grants.
- Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water (OGWDW) protects public health by ensuring safe drinking water and protecting groundwater sources. OGWDW implements the SDWA by developing and implementing regulations for drinking water contaminants and promoting public awareness of safe drinking water issues.
- American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) provides support to tribal groups developing and implementing their own environmental programs. AIEO provides multi-media program grants to Tribes, negotiates EPA/tribal environmental agreements that identify tribal priorities for building environmental programs, and helps improve EPA/tribal communication.

The Office of Water's objective is to maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. Its goals are to eliminate the discharge of pollutants in U.S. waters and to achieve levels of water quality that protect and propagate fish, shellfish, and other wildlife as well as provide for recreation in the water. The Office of Water strives to:

- Provide an adequate supply of clean water;
- Improve and protect water quality;
- Collaborate with states, local governments, and tribes to build their water protection programs;

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EPA's WATER PROGRAM

- Provide nationwide baseline controls, standards, and guidelines; and
- Improve the science, methods, models, and other tools to identify, assess, and quantify the risks associated with exposure to environmental contaminants.

USING THE RESOURCE

Contact the Office of Water when:

- Contaminants from a Superfund site impact or potentially impact surface water, groundwater, or drinking water intakes, and the need exists to obtain clarification of requirements under federal laws.
- The CWA, SDWA, or other water quality statutes provide the ARARs for the cleanup.

OUTSIDE SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- U.S. EPA, Water Resource Center
E-mail: waterpubs@epamail.epa.gov
- Wetlands Hotline (800) 832-7828
E-mail: wetlands-hotline@epamail.epa.gov
- Safe Drinking Water Hotline
(800) 426-4791